

Hawai'i Dads (Makua kâne)

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First meeting held December 29, 2004

State Commission on Fatherhood

The State Commission on Fatherhood held its first meeting on Wednesday, December 29, 2004, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Lt. Governor's Conference Room, Hawai'i State Capitol, Honolulu.

The Fatherhood Commission has **nine voting members** appointed by Governor Linda Lingle: **Sandy Baz** (Maui County), **Andres Baclig** (East Hawai'i), **Bernard Carvalho** (Kaua'i County), **Michael Kramer** (West Hawai'i), **Wayne Cordeiro**, **Greg Farstrup**, **Steven Nakaoka**, **Marika Ripke**, and **Sylvia Yuen**. The Commission also includes **five non-voting ex-officio members**: the Director of Human Services, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Attorney General, and Executive Director of The Office of Youth Services, or their designees.



Fatherhood Commissioners at the first meeting are (l. to r.): Andy Baclig, Russell Suzuki (AG), Sandy Baz, Sylvia Yuen, Wayne Cordeiro, Bernard Carvalho, Henry Oliva (DHS), Michael Kramer, Marika Ripke, Greg Farstrup, Merton Chinen (OYS), and Steven Nakaoka.

The Fatherhood Commission elected its officers to be: *Chair*, Greg Farstrup; *Vice Chair*, Michael Kramer; and *Recording Secretary*, Marika Ripke.

Act 156-03 says: "the Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to state agencies...make recommendations on programs, services and contracts relating to children and families, and may:

1. "Act as a central clearing-house and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental activities and information relating to the promotion of healthy families;
2. "Identify promising best practices that support and engage both parents in the emotional and financial support of their children;
3. "Identify obstacles that impede or prevent the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children;
4. "Raise public awareness of the consequences that the absence of the father may cause in a child's life;
5. "Recommend policies and practices, both within and without state government, that sustain and reengage fathers in the lives of their children;
6. "Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support programs designed to educate and train young

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men who are both current and future fathers as to effective parenting skills, behaviors, and attitudes;

7. "Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support programs that promote fatherhood; and
8. "Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support programs that counter poverty and low income by increasing the capacity of fathers to overcome personal challenges and

become productive, independent, and financially responsible contributors to their family...."

The Commission has been doing strategic planning and working with the Legislature to extend its "sunset date" to June, 2007 and secure funding support.

~HI Dads~

LOCAL DADS ACTIVITIES:

Valentine's Day at the Hui Makuakane Fathers Program

Love was in the air

The sky was blue, the winds were calm, and the mood was that of a warm lovers' day on Sunday, February 13th, as the Hui Makuakane Father Involvement couples at the Hana Like Home Visitor Program on Oahu were whisked away to begin a Valentine's day full of fun and romance.

First stop was Waikiki Beach, where the couples were treated to a one hour catamaran ride a few miles off Diamond Head. The ocean danced for the Hui Makuakane dads and their spouses, who were also visited by a whale, dolphins, and even turtles.

Later, the couples were transported to Round Top Park where each couple was greeted with a picnic basket complete with apple cider, champagne glasses, and a mat to sit on. Each couple found a special place in the park to enjoy their lunch together. The day reminded the couples to be sure to remember each other even with the stresses of day-to-day- life. **~HI Dads~**

Oahu Head Start

Breakfast with Dads and their Keiki

The Oahu Head Start's Breakfast with Dads and their Keiki activity has been a successful way to help fathers and other father-figures get more involved with their children.

Twelve dads, their keiki, and two guys from Oahu Head Start gathered on the Windward side for breakfast at the Keolu Center in November, 2004.

Sixteen dads and their keiki ate breakfast at Oahu Head Start's Waipahu Community Full Day-Full Year Center in January, 2005.

And in February, eleven dads and their keiki breakfasted at Oahu Head Start's 442 Center next to the Waianae Boat Harbor.

The children are excited to have their fathers, uncles, and grandfathers with them and—even better—the fathers are happy to spend time with the children. **~HI Dads~**

West Hawai`i Fatherhood Initiative “Na Makuakane Maika`i O Hawaii”**“A Celebration of Fatherhood” Conference**

Over 120 fathers, men, family members, and human service professionals attended *A Celebration of Fatherhood* conference on Saturday, March 26, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ohana Keauhou Beach Resort in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island.

The Celebration of Fatherhood featured John Kaimikaua, Halau Hula ‘o Kukuna ‘o Kala, local Kupuna, Uncle Wally Lau, Councilman Angel Pilago, networking, and community resources.

Breakout sessions and keynote speakers covered topics including: Appreciating Our Role Models, Basics of Child Development, Building Cultural Values, Improving Relationships, Stories of Inspiration, Empowering the Ohana, Working Effectively with Families, and Strengthening Parent Skills.

The fatherhood conference was sponsored by the West Hawaii Fatherhood Initiative “Na Makuakane Maika`i O Hawaii,” a program of Family Support Services of West Hawaii; Hui Malama Ola Na OIwi Ka Ho`okane; Neighborhood Place of Kona; and Queen Liliuokalani Children’s Center.

~HI Dads~

2nd year funding for Hawai`i Coalition for Dads**\$50,000 Hawai`i Children’s Trust Fund grant**

Parents And Children Together has been awarded \$50,000 by the Hawai`i Children’s Trust Fund for the second year of its two-year 2004-05 grant for the Hawai`i Coalition for Dads to:

1. Refine and strengthen the Nurturing Fathers/Play+Learn program designed to reestablish, maintain, and/or enhance the participating father/inmates’ bonds with their children and relationships with their families in partnership with the Waiawa Correctional Facility on Oahu, The Institute For Family Enrichment, and Good Beginnings Alliance;
2. Encourage human services agencies and schools to assess their “father-friendliness” and to provide individualized consultation, training, and support to agencies so that their practices and services become more “father-friendly;”
3. Increase the awareness of fathers, as well as the general public, of fatherhood resources and issues by carrying out public awareness and education events and mass media activities and campaigns; and
4. Strengthen the impact of the Hawai`i Coalition for Dads by increasing the number of active members and volunteers on each Neighbor Island County and developing a statewide Hawai`i Coalition for Dads.

~HI Dads~

“Sharing the Joys of the Holidays” contribution to HCD**Weinberg Foundation contributes \$10,000 to HCD**

The Hawai`i Coalition for Dads received a \$10,000 contribution from The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation’s “Sharing the Joys of the Holidays” project at a December 14, 2005 luncheon at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

The Weinberg Foundation contribution supports the Hawai`i Coalition for Dads’ work to increase community awareness about fatherhood; promote the availability and accessibility of quality, father-centered community resources; advocate for informed public policy regarding fatherhood; and strengthen community collaborations in support of fatherhood.

~HI Dads~

**Saturday, October 9, 2003 – HAEYC sponsored
Men in Early Childhood Network
(MEN) Retreat**

Children benefit from nurturing relationships with men, so why do so few work in early childhood education (birth through 8 years old) and why are their numbers declining?

Last fall, 18 Hawai'i men met for a day of fun, camaraderie, reflection on what men offer, and actions that support nurturing men in the lives of young children and families.

The MEN Retreat, sponsored by the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) and facilitated by Don Piburn, took place on Saturday, October 9, 2003, at the Norman Home for Healing, an Oahu Retreat Center overlooking Aloha Tower and the Honolulu Harbor.

Roberto Reggio described his MEN Retreat experience this way: "The workshop was for men who work with young children. We came from the Big Island, Maui, Kauai, and Oahu; most of us work in private and public pre-schools or Hawaiian Emersion schools as teachers, assistants, aides, or administrators. There was a retired man started volunteering one day a week and now works five days because he loves it so much, and a man who works for the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads promoting involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood.

"The most interesting thing for me in this group of eighteen



men was that there was not one who intended to work with young children. We all just sort of fell into it for one reason or another. The other thing that impressed me is how dedicated and passionate and articulate these men are about what we do.

"Each story was similar in that after falling into this profession and falling in love with what this profession offers...the opportunity to be creative, the opportunity to be nurturing, caring,

loving, the opportunity to offer young children a different perspective and experience by virtue of our gender, the opportunity to make a difference...none cared that the profession does not offer much money, that friends and family often do not understand, none wanted advancement to administration for more pay.

"This past Saturday was one of the greatest days of my professional life. I got to hang with seventeen guys who see it the way I see it...who struggle with the roles society dictates for us...who struggle to be better teachers and to be true to ourselves as men...who struggle to be included. I am not as lonely as I was a week ago.

"You can probably guess at some of the topics we discussed: recruiting and retaining men in the profession; what the male brings to the pre-school setting? what the male takes from the pre-school setting? accusation/expectation of abuse; gender stereotyping for both males and females; raising pay scale for both men and women; building a classroom that reflects both male energy and female energy; male teachers involving fathers in education; and books and resources for men in Early Childhood [education].

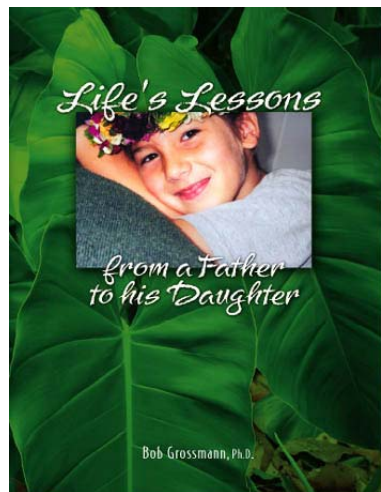
"For me, this workshop was important for its context, not its content. It was men's deep voices speaking softly of Early Childhood Education."

~HI Dads~

New from a Hawai`i dad...

"Life's Lessons from a Father to his Daughter"

by Bob Grossmann, PhD



In *Life's Lessons from a Father to his Daughter* Hawai`i father Bob Grossman uses twenty-four stories, pictures, and artwork to "help teach our children life's lessons with the aim of helping our children learn to make good decision-making skills. Decision-making skills are often not well taught or integrated into a strong sense of personal philosophy. Human nature can be impulsive.

"The use of stories (real life or metaphors) to pass on life lessons from one generation to another is at the core of our oral and written traditions. Parents can help to pass on this information as a creative way to install core values, help reduce the chance of mishap, and enhance lifelong success.

"Part of the challenge is establishing a dialogue that allows worldviews to be discussed: both the commonalities and the differences. Perhaps part of the failure to achieve a sustained dialogue is that we as parents wait too long to start the dialogue.

"Part of the challenge, too, is that the lessons have different levels of meaning as we age. So *Life's Lessons from a Father to his Daughter* was written to have meaning at the different stages of life: in one's mid-teens, mid-twenties, and again in mid-life. Value exists in the stories being real. Non-fiction can carry more weight. Children need to learn early that their parents continue to go through what they are experiencing. We, too, make mistakes, that we try and fail, and we are both individuals and members of larger communities.

"All the increasing access to information may not make decision-making easier. Greater discrimination and better choices will be essential. So, read the vignettes with your children and see where the discussion goes. Be sure to have a few good laughs along the way! *Life's Lessons from a Father to his Daughter* is a tool to help parents communicate with their children by providing a context for parents to add their own personal stories."

The 100 page book is available at your local or online bookstores. For more information, go to: www.trafford.com/robots/03-0629.html.

~HI Dads~

Support the HAWAI`I COALITION FOR DADS.

Help promote involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood in Hawai`i.

☐ Please keep me informed about the activities of the Hawai`i Coalition for Dads.

☐ I would like to volunteer to help; contact me.

☐ Here is my contribution. \$ _____

~ Your donations are tax-deductible. ~

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please make your check payable to: **Hawai`i Coalition for Dads/PACT**

Phone: 841-2245

...and send it to: 1485 Linapuni St. #105

E-mail:

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96819

HawaiiDads@pacthawaii.org

*Planned Fatherhood***Involving Teen Boys and Young Men in Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

Long a neglected piece in the teen pregnancy puzzle, boys and young men are increasingly being seen as a key part of pregnancy prevention efforts.

Discussions about this topic at the October, 2004 meeting of the Hawaii Teen Pregnancy, Parenting, and Prevention Council revealed that only token efforts are being made in Hawaii to enlist more boys and men in planned fatherhood education programs.

"Involving Teen Boys and Young Men in Teen Pregnancy Prevention" is an important section of the recent *Get Organized: A Guide to Preventing Teen Pregnancy* (pp. 59-78).

The *Guide* points out that much has happened across the country in the last few years:

- Forty states are implementing or planning to implement strategies to prevent unwanted or too-early fatherhood, according to the National Center for Children in Poverty;
- More than half these states are adopting school- or community- based initiatives, often by adding a male component to existing activities to prevent teen pregnancy. Several states report developing curricula for middle school students to teach responsible fatherhood;
- Some family planning clinics that have traditionally served girls and women are now teaching young men to be effective users of contraception;
- Community-based programs, led by adult men, are helping adolescent boys negotiate the difficult passage to responsible manhood;
- Male juveniles in the criminal justice system are being included in prevention efforts; and
- Media campaigns are encouraging teen boys to abstain from sex, or to use contraception if they are sexually active.

This new focus on the male role in teen pregnancy prevention comes at a time of renewed interest in the importance of responsible fatherhood. Useful sections in this part of the *Guide* include:

- *10 reasons to include boys and men in teen pregnancy prevention;*
- *Developing pregnancy prevention programs for boys and young men;*
- *CHECKLIST: Learning about young men in the community;*
- *CHECKLIST: Making sure a program is male-friendly; and*
- *Possible sources of funding.*

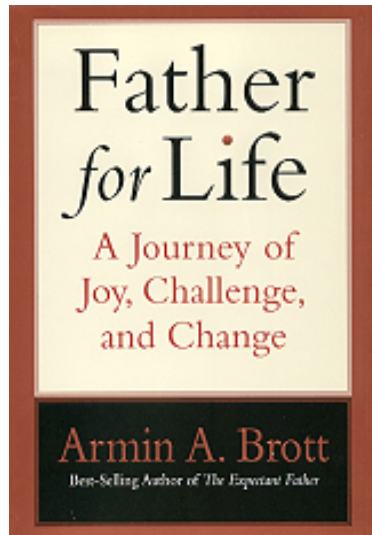


Get Organized: A Guide to Preventing Teen Pregnancy is available from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in conjunction with the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (go to "Resources→Get Organized" @ www.teenpregnancy.org).

A Journey of Joy, Challenge, and Change

Father for Life™

The essential guide for every dad by the bestselling author of *Expectant Father* and the New Father series, *Father for Life* looks at the phases of fatherhood from the conception of a child through the grandfather years.



While there have been many books about child development and motherhood, precious little has been written about how fathers change and develop as parents or about how children influence their fathers' development.

Yet most fathers know that a man who's just found out that his wife is expecting is a very different kind of man from the one he'll be when he holds his newborn in his arms for the first time. And that same dad will have changed again—psychologically and emotionally—by the time his baby speaks for the first time.

Fathers evolve and develop throughout every stage of their children's lives—from the preschool and elementary school years through the tumultuous teens, young adulthood, middle age, grandfather years, and beyond. **But no matter what the child's age, a father is always a father.**

In this ground-breaking book, Armin Brott presents the stages of fatherhood with the same thoroughness, accessibility, and humor that have made his critically acclaimed books some of the most popular fatherhood guides in the country.

He offers a wealth of information and practical tips, incorporating the wisdom of experts, studies about parental development, and his own extensive interviews with hundreds of fathers. Because fatherhood is a progression, the chapters are organized chronologically and describe a father's physical and

emotional growth, how he influences a child at every age, and how a child impacts a father's evolution in turn.

Brott covers everything from such general issues as how to juggle work and family roles, how to affect the kind of person your child becomes, and when to encourage his individuality and independence to such specific topics as how to get to know your baby, what to do if your teen uses drugs, and how to cope when adult children return home.

Illustrated throughout with New Yorker style cartoons that underscore the universality of the joys and woes of parenting, *Father for Life* is brimming with insights and advice.

This book is an indispensable, lifelong guide—not only for every dad, but for every mom and child as well.

"Brott writes honestly and earnestly. His wry sense of humor will be a relief to hassled parents...."

—*Time Magazine*

~HI Dads~

HAWAII COALITION FOR DADS

Promoting involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood.

c/o PACT / Hana Like

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GOALS:

1. To increase community awareness about fatherhood.
2. To promote the availability and accessibility of quality, father-centered community resources.
3. To advocate for informed public policy regarding fatherhood.
4. To strengthen community collaboration in support of fatherhood.
5. To respect and honor everyone's unique role in children's lives.

The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads, with funding from the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund under the umbrella of Parents And Children Together (PACT), is a group of individuals and organizations (including *Alu Like, Family Support Services of West Hawai'i, Good Beginnings Alliance, Hana Like Home Visitor Program, Head Start agencies, Kamehameha Schools' Extension Education Division, Molokai Mediation Center, PARENTS, and Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center*) that shares information about services to fathers and promotes involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood.

Fatherhood & Family Resources (O`ahu)**Fathering & Parenting Education & Support:**

1. **TIFFE** (Nurturing Fathers; Playgroups) (596-8433; tiffe.org)
2. **The Baby Hui** (groups for Dads, and Moms) (735-2484; thebabyhui.org)
3. **Navy Fleet & Family Support Center** (Boot Camp For New Dads) (473-4222; greatlifehawaii.com)
4. **PARENTS** (Confident Parenting Classes) (235-0488)
5. **The Parent Line** (Info & Referral) (526-1222; theparentline.org)
6. **AUW** – 211; auw.org/211
7. **HPIRG** (HI Parental Information & Resource Centers) (841-6177; hawaiiipirc.org)
8. **SPIN** (Special Parent Information Network) (586-8126; spinhawaii.org)
9. **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (support for single dads and moms) (521-3811; bigshonolulu.org)
10. **Families For R.E.A.L.** (Leeward: 453-6478; Windward: 233-5656)
11. **Good Beginnings Alliance** (Playgroups) (531-5502; goodbeginnings.org)
12. **ALU LIKE** (Hawaiian families) (535-6700; alulike.org)
13. **Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center** (Hawaiian families) (847-1302; qlcc.org)
14. **PACT** (Hana Like; Head Start) (847-3285; pacthawaii.org)

Family Counseling:

1. **Child & Family Service** (681-3500; cfs-hawaii.org)
2. **Catholic Charities Family Services** (536-1794; catholiccharitieshawaii.org)
3. **Hawaii Psychological Assn.** (521-8995; hawaiipsych.org)
4. **Kaiser Medical Center** (432-0000; kaiserpermanente.org):
5. **HMSA** (948-6111; hmsa.com)
6. **Med-QUEST** (587-3521; med-quest.us)
7. Suicide prevention help (DOH - **ACCESS Line: 832-3100**)

Religious resources: Contact your place of worship...church, temple, synagogue

Internet Resources (check on their "Links", too):

1. **mr.dad** (mrdad.com)
2. **fathers.com** (fathers.com)
3. **Boot Camp For New Dads** (newdads.com)
4. **National Fatherhood Initiative** (fatherhood.org)
5. **Dad at a Distance** (daads.com)